

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/938,575

Examiner

Ramsey Refai

Applicant(s)

IHARA ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date #23, #24, #33
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other PTO-413B.

JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Responsive to Amendment After-Final received on May 18, 2005.
2. Claims 1-6 are allowed

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Bradley Lytle on June 3, 2005.

3. Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1: A content distribution method for making a reservation to a reservation control apparatus for the use of a distribution server that receives content sent from a client distributor terminal apparatus and distributes the content by streaming to a client terminal apparatus requesting the distribution of the content, sending the content from said client distributor terminal apparatus to said distribution server based on the reservation ~~and thereby distributing the content~~, said content distribution method comprising:

sending a reservation request from said client distributor terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus, via a first network, the a reservation request including selected service time and selected channel from a plurality of available service times and available channels, and communication/connection information for an associated carrier desired

~~service time and a desired channel~~ for distributing content using said distribution server from said client distributor terminal apparatus;

determining, by the reservation control apparatus, an access server information, which includes information regarding an access server, which is associated with ~~for accessing the~~ desired channel to distribute content via a second network, which is different from the first network, when the reservation request is accepted;

transmitting, via the first network from the reservation control apparatus to the client distributor terminal apparatus, reservation setting information including a the access server information and communication/connection information for the client distributor terminal apparatus to establish a communication with the distribution server via said second network and distribute the content; and

transmitting the content from the client distributor terminal apparatus to the distribution server using the desired channel via said second network based on the communication/connection information and the access server information.

Claim 2: The content distribution method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a storing step of writing and storing said communication/connection information included in said reservation setting information sent from said reservation control apparatus, in a predetermined storage area of said client distributor terminal apparatus; and

a communication establishing step comprising:

reading said communication/connection information stored in said predetermined storage area; and establishing a communication/connection with said distribution server based on the

communication/connection information via said second network; wherein content is sent to said distribution server via said second network in said content transmitting step after the communication/connection is established in said communication establishing step.

Claim 3: The content distribution method according to Claim 2, wherein:

~~said reservation request includes said communication/connection information for each of a plurality of carriers, and~~ said communication establishing step reads said communication/connection information corresponding to a carrier preset by a user of said client distributor terminal apparatus out of said communication/connection information to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server based on the read communication/connection information via said second network.

Claim 4: The content distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein:

said first network is the Internet; and

said second network is a dedicated network to transmit content to said distribution server.

Claim 5: A content supply system composed of a distribution server that receives content sent from a client distributor terminal apparatus and distributes the content by streaming to a client terminal apparatus requesting the distribution of the content and a reservation control apparatus that controls reservations of live distribution of content using said distribution server, said content supply system comprising:

a first network that connects said client distributor terminal apparatus and said reservation control apparatus and is used to send/receive data about ~~the~~ a reservation **for access to the distribution server to distribute content to a client terminal apparatus requesting the distribution of the content;** ~~between said distributor terminal apparatus and said reservation control apparatus; and~~

~~the~~ a second network that connects said client distributor terminal apparatus and said distribution server and is used to send content from said client distributor terminal apparatus to said distribution server;

wherein the reservation control apparatus schedules live distribution of content for a selected channel and a selected time **based on whether a reservation request, which includes said selected channel, said selected time, and communication/connection information for an associated carrier to distribute content, sent from said client distributor terminal apparatus is accepted;**

once accepted, the reservation control apparatus, determines an access server information; the access server information includes information regarding an access server, which is associated with the desired channel to distribute content via the second network; wherein the access server controls distribution of content by verifying if the client distributor terminal apparatus has a valid reservation to distribute content.

~~the access server determines whether an access server information for accessing the desired channel is accepted;~~

Claim 6: The content supply system according to Claim 5, wherein: said first network is the Internet; and said second network is a dedicated network to send content to said distribution server.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination a content distribution method and system for making a reservation to a reservation control apparatus for the use of a distribution server that receives content sent from a client distributor terminal apparatus and distributes the content by streaming to a client terminal apparatus requesting the distribution of the content. A reservation request sent from said client distributor terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus, via a first network, includes a selected service time and a selected channel selected from a plurality of available service times and available channels, and also contains communication/connection information for an associated carrier for distributing content using said distribution server from said client distributor terminal apparatus. The reservation control apparatus determines an access server information, which includes information regarding an access server, which is associated with the desired channel to distribute content via a second network, which is different from the first network, when the reservation request is accepted. Then transmitting, via the first network from the reservation control apparatus to the client distributor terminal apparatus, reservation setting information including the access server information and communication/connection information for the client distributor terminal apparatus to establish a communication with the distribution server via said second network and distribute the content. Then transmitting the content from the client

distributor terminal apparatus to the distribution server using the desired channel via said second network based on the communication/connection information and the access server information.

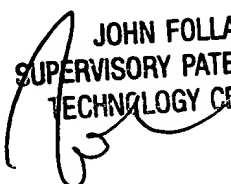
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Refai whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RR
June 6, 2005

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